

FLASH – FLASH – FLASH – FLASH – FLASH – FLASH – FLASH



Special Commitment Center to close

What I've been predicting for several months is now looking like it will come true. I was told today by a representative from the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services that the Special Commitment Center – where our state's worst sexual predators are involuntarily committed and housed – will be moved off of McNeil Island and possibly relocated to the Maple Lane juvenile offender facility in Centralia.

The Maple Lane school was a medium/maximum security fenced facility that provided treatment services for juvenile male offenders with co-occurring and tri-occurring issues, but the facility was eliminated with last year's budget cuts. Now, it appears, it will be reopened as the state's newest housing unit for violent sexual predators, only **this one won't have the added security of being located on an isolated island in the middle of the south Puget Sound.**

I have been predicting a possible move for some time now, dating back to late last year. Below are links to my previous Kitchen Cabinets where I talked about this possibility:

December 2, 2010 – *"Because the state Special Commitment Center is also on the island, the state would still have to maintain a certain level of services around that facility, including a fire department, waste disposal and ferry service to and from the island. I just can't see closing the prison but keeping all the other functions going out there to be a viable solution to the state's budget crisis."*

December 7, 2010 – *"I learned that the state is not planning move the Special Commitment Center off the island, which means essential functions like garbage disposal, fire response and security will need to continue on the island. However, instead of hiring additional state workers to fill these positions that had previously been done by inmates, the state is planning on – get this – **bussing in inmates from other prisons around the state and ferrying them out to the island in shifts around the clock to do these functions.** DOC has predicated this on a series of imponderables and I for one am raising*

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SIGN UP

Due to budget restrictions at the Legislature, I will no longer be able to send you printed newsletters about

my eyebrows at the plan.”

January 3, 2011 – “Now that the prison is being abandoned and leaving only the Special Commitment Center on the island, **those tasks will likely need to be entirely outsourced as well...** I am also more convinced than ever that when the prison goes away, the SCC will soon follow. This is going to raise the cost of running the island’s ferry system by as much as 500 percent. I don’t think it’s unrealistic to expect the cost of running the ferry system to reach \$10 million a year, instead of the \$2 million it costs today. I believe it’s only a matter of time before the state Department of Social and Health Services (which runs the SCC) realizes that it can’t afford to continue operations on the island and decides to move the SCC off the island.”

February 1, 2011 – “I’ve just learned that the state Department of Corrections, Senate Ways and Means committee staff and Pierce County are commencing initial discussions of how the Pierce County ferry could be used to get to and from the Special Commitment Center on McNeil Island. If the negotiations end in an agreement between Pierce County and the state, it could mean that residents of Anderson and Ketron Islands – and their families – may be sharing a ferry boat ride with sex predators. The potential for problems rises even more sharply if more SCC residents are transitioned to halfway houses on the mainland.”


February 14, 2011 – “Yet again, the media is apparently playing catch-up on an issue that I told you about a long time ago. In Sunday’s Tacoma News Tribune, there was an article titled, “Death of an island prison.” You can read the entire article by clicking this link. One thing that I think the article clearly points out is that **there is a very strong possibility that the state Department of Social and Health Services could be planning to move the Special Commitment Center for violent sex predators off the island.** I believe it is a real likelihood that is going to happen because everyone involved is beginning to realize that the numbers just don’t pencil out.”

Once again, as members of my Kitchen Cabinet, you’re finding out about this information before the media, so thank you for continuing to receive my updates.

In closing...

As always, if you would like to contact me you can write, phone, e-mail, or stop by. **It remains my honor to serve you in the Washington State Senate.**

Sincerely,



Mike Carrell
28th District State Senator

what goes on in state government.

Now – more than ever – it is imperative to sign up to get these electronic updates! Click below and fill out the form.

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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I need to know where you stand on these and other topics! These are enormous issues coming before the state legislature and I want to know how you feel about them.

Do you support or oppose these issues? **As my Kitchen Cabinet members, I want your advice.**

Please send me an e-mail and let me know where you stand and what you’re thinking.

E-MAIL

FORWARD TO A FRIEND

If you know someone in our district who might be interested in receiving these updates, **please feel free to forward this e-mail to him or her.**

You can always find more of my information online by visiting my website at:
www.SenateRepublicans.wa.gov/Carrell.